7/18/88 S6845-1 A

ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA ALTOONA MSA BEAVER COUNTY PMSA ERIE MSA HARRISBURG-LEBANON-CARLISLE MSA JOHNSTOWN MSA LANCASTER MSA PHILADELPHIA PMSA PITTSBURGH PMSA READING MSA SCRANTON WILKES-BARRE MSA SHARON MSA STATE COLLEGE MSA WILLIAMSPORT MSA YORK MSA HUNTINGDON LMA INDIANA

YORK MSA
WILLIAMSPORT MSA
STATE COLLEGE MSA
SHARON MSA
SCRANTON -
WILKES-BARRE MSA
READING MSA
PITTSBURGH PMSA
PHILADELPHIA PMSA
LANCASTER MSA
JOHNSTOWN MSA
HARRISBURG
LEBANON CARLISLE
MSA ERIE MSA
BEAVER COUNTY
PMSA ALTOONA MSA
ALLENTOWN
BETHLEHEM MSA
BEDFORD LMA
BRADFORD LMA
BUTLER LMA
CHAMBERSBURG

PENNSYLVANIA'S

LABOR FORCE

.... A Monthly Statistical Analysis

Highlights

- After a fourteen year low for unemployment in April, May statistics showed a retreat toward the levels attained in March.
- For April the lowest county jobless rate was recorded in Chester County, the highest in Green County.
- Over the year the rate of unemployment in Pittsburgh PMSA has dropped 0.9 percentage point to 5.8 percent.
- Commonwealth employment as measured by the survey of businesses expanded May to May by 113,300. The April to May growth was slightly above that which is expected.
- The Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund expanded to $373 million by the end of April as the result of income exceeding disbursements.

INSIDE

Current Labor Force Situation.....1
Pennsylvania's Labor Markets 3
Nonagricultural Jobs 4-5
Hours and Earnings.....6
Unemployment Compensation 7

MAY 1988 DATA ISSUED: JUNE 1988

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Department of Labor and Industry Office of Employment Security

Research and Statistics Division

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Pennsylvania's Labor Force ....A Monthly Statistical Analysis
is published monthly by the Office of Employment Security, Research and Statistics Division. Focusing on economic information and analysis, the publication is intended for a variety of users from business leaders, government administrators and planners to the general public.

ADDRESS INQUIRIES TO:
RESEARCH AND STATISTICS DIVISION
LABOR AND INDUSTRY BUILDING
SEVENTH AND FORSTER STREETS
HARRISBURG, PA 17121
PHONE: (717) 787-6466

CURRENT LABOR FORCE SITUATION

UNEMPLOYMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA MOVES TO MARCH 1988 LEVEL

The recent shining performance of Pennsylvania's labor force dimmed slightly in May. After approaching near record levels for employment and a fourteen year low for unemployment in April, May statistics showed a retreat toward the levels attained in March. The May seasonally adjusted joblessness was 286,000, up 10,000 over April. The increase was enough to push the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment back up to 5.1 percent, where it was two months earlier in March. The May rate was up from April's 4.8 percent which represented the lowest level since May 1974. It is not atypical for the rate of unemployment to rise between April and May. In spite of the monthly movement, Pennsylvania's May 1988 rate was 0.4 percentage point below the level set one year earlier.

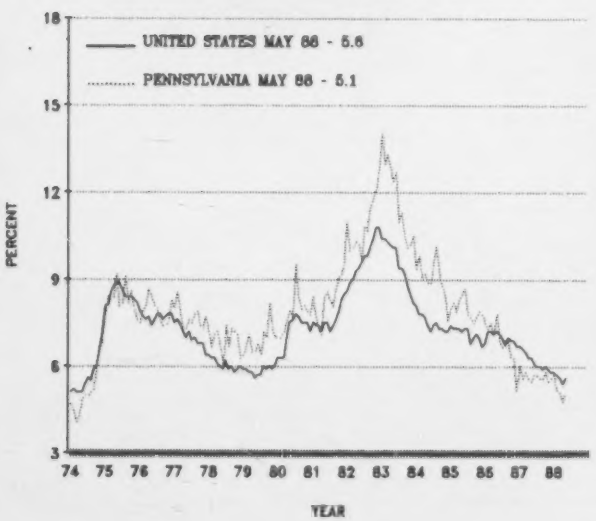
Moving in contradiction to rising establishment employment levels, employment as measured by the survey of households revealed a drop from April to May. The May level of employment was 5,375,000, which represented an over-the-month loss of 102,000.

The estimated civilian labor force also experienced a decline of 92,000 over the month. The probable cause was the absence of the usual influx of school students into the labor force during the earlier than usual survey week. Typically, students begin entering the labor force in May as some colleges and universities finish the academic year. In May of this year, because the survey week was earlier many of these students may not have been counted.

TABLE 1
TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA
(All persons in thousands)

RESIDENT DATA	MAY 1988	APR 1988	MAY 1987	NET CHANGE FROM APR 1988	NET CHANGE FROM MAY 1987
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5681	5753	5624	-92	37
Employment	5375	5477	5315	-102	60
Unemployment	286	276	309	10	-23
Rate of Unemployment (%)	5.1	4.8	5.5	0.3	-0.4
UNADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5635	5656	5595	-21	40
Employment	5355	5396	5294	-41	61
Unemployment	279	260	301	19	-22
Rate of Unemployment (%)	5.0	4.6	5.4	0.4	-0.4

UNITED STATES & PENNSYLVANIA
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)



UNEMPLOYMENT ..... A GEOGRAPHIC VIEW

RATE DROPS TO 2.3 PERCENT IN CHESTER COUNTY

The lowest county jobless rate was recorded in Chester County, where unemployment dropped between March and April by 0.5 percentage point to 2.3 percent. This contrasts dramatically with southwestern Greene County, where April's double digit rate of 10.8 percent was the highest in the state.

During April the state recorded an unemployment rate of 4.6 percent (not seasonally adjusted). Twenty-eight of Pennsylvania's counties had rates at this level or lower. Two counties, Forest and Greene, had double digit unemployment, an improvement from March when 10 counties were at this high level. The map below depicts the diverse unemployment rates between counties in the Commonwealth.

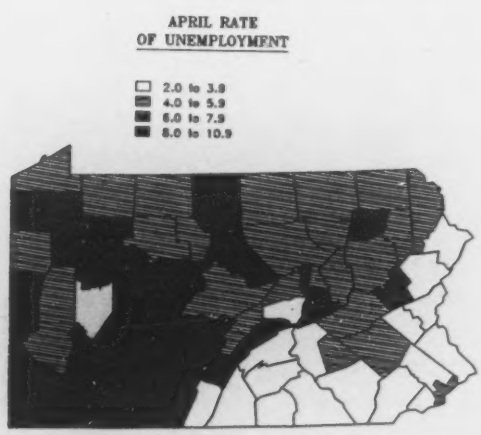


TABLE 2
PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES RANKED BY RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
(Not seasonally adjusted)
APRIL - 1988

COUNTY	RANK	RATE (Percent)	VOLUME (Thousands)
Chester	1	2.3	4.2
Cumberland	2	2.4	2.5
Montgomery	3	2.8	8.9
Delaware	4	2.9	8.5
Lancaster	5	3.0	6.3
Bucks	5	3.0	6.7
Snyder	7	3.4	0.6
Adams	7	3.4	1.3
Dauphin	9	3.7	4.8
Franklin	9	3.7	2.0
Perry	9	3.7	0.7
Pike	12	3.8	0.4
York	12	3.8	6.6
Northampton	12	3.8	4.2
Monroe	15	3.9	1.8
Lehigh	15	3.9	5.6
Lebanon	17	4.0	2.5
Sullivan	18	4.1	0.1
Wayne	18	4.1	0.8
Centre	18	4.1	2.8
Union	21	4.3	0.7
Montour	21	4.3	0.3
Berks	21	4.3	7.8
Mercer	21	4.3	2.2
Bradford	25	4.4	1.3
Allegheny	26	4.6	28.4
Lycoming	26	4.6	2.8
Warren	26	4.6	1.0
Columbia	29	4.8	1.5
Tioga	30	4.9	0.9
Lackawanna	30	4.9	5.2
Elk	32	5.2	0.8
Philadelphia	32	5.2	38.2
Butler	34	5.5	3.8
Schuylkill	35	5.6	3.9
Susquehanna	36	5.7	1.0
Cameron	36	5.7	0.1
Erie	36	5.8	7.3
Luzerne	36	5.8	9.0
McKean	36	5.8	1.2
Mifflin	36	5.8	1.2
Fulton	42	5.9	0.3
Venango	43	6.0	1.5
Potter	43	6.0	0.4
Carbon	43	6.0	1.5
Lawrence	46	6.1	2.7
Cambria	47	6.2	3.8
Blair	47	6.2	3.6
Clinton	49	6.3	1.0
Crawford	50	6.4	2.4
Northumberland	50	6.4	3.0
Bedford	50	6.4	1.3
Wyoming	53	6.5	0.8
Washington	54	6.9	6.2
Somerset	55	7.0	2.2
Huntingdon	56	7.0	1.3
Clarion	57	7.3	1.2
Westmoreland	57	7.3	12.2
Clearfield	59	7.7	2.8
Jefferson	59	7.7	1.5
Armstrong	61	7.9	2.2
Indiana	62	8.3	2.9
Beaver	63	8.4	5.2
Juniata	64	8.6	0.8
Fayette	65	9.2	5.3
Forest	66	10.7	0.2
Greene	67	10.8	1.4

PENNSYLVANIA'S LABOR MARKET AREAS

TABLE 3

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT VOLUME AND RATE
BY MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA IN PENNSYLVANIA
(Seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

	APR. 1988 P/		MAR. 1988		APR. 1987	
	UNEMP. NUMBER	UNEMP. RATE%	UNEMP. NUMBER	UNEMP. RATE%	UNEMP. NUMBER	UNEMP. RATE%
UNITED STATES	6,610.0	5.6	6,801.0	5.6	7,557.0	6.3
PENNSYLVANIA	276.0	4.8	293.0	5.1	310.0	5.6
LABOR MARKET AREA						
ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA	13.3	4.1	14.3	4.5	15.2	4.8
ALTOONA MSA	4.0	6.7	3.9	6.5	3.9	6.8
BEAVER COUNTY PMSA	5.7	9.0	6.1	9.7	5.9	9.6
ERIE MSA	7.6	5.9	8.2	6.4	8.7	7.0
HARRISBURG-LEB.-CARLISLE MSA	11.8	3.7	12.2	3.8	11.9	3.9
JOHNSTOWN MSA	6.3	6.7	6.9	7.3	7.3	7.9
LANCASTER MSA	7.2	3.3	7.1	3.3	7.6	3.7
PHILADELPHIA PMSA	96.5	4.0	100.8	4.2	102.3	4.3
PITTSBURGH PMSA	55.5	5.8	57.1	6.0	62.9	6.7
READING MSA	7.1	4.0	7.7	4.4	7.7	4.6
SCRANTON--WILKES-BARRE MSA	19.8	5.6	21.6	6.1	24.3	7.1
SHARON MSA	2.3	4.5	2.6	5.2	3.1	6.5
STATE COLLEGE MSA	2.8	4.5	3.1	5.1	3.1	5.3
WILLIAMSPORT MSA	2.8	4.6	3.0	4.9	2.8	5.0
YORK MSA	8.6	4.0	9.1	4.2	9.0	4.4

P/ DATA ARE PRELIMINARY.

PENNSYLVANIA'S MSAS HEALTHY IN APRIL

The volume of unemployment in Pennsylvania's fifteen major Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) dipped in April. In terms of total volume month-month, Philadelphia lost the greatest number from the rolls of the unemployed (4,300), which helped to reduce the rate from 4.2 percent to 4.0 percent. The rate of unemployment receded in nearly every major MSA in April as unemployment in Pennsylvania (seasonally adjusted) dropped from 5.1 to 4.8 percent.

The high-low trend for the major MSA'S continued as Lancaster MSA's 3.3 percent registered the lowest rate, while Beaver County PMSA had the highest level of joblessness at 9.0 percent, 2.3 percentage points higher than any other MSA.

Over the year several MSA's displayed significant improvement. The rate of unemployment in the Pittsburgh PMSA dipped 0.9 percentage point from 6.7 percent to 5.8 percent. Erie dropped 1.1 percentage points (7.0 percent to 5.9 percent), Scranton/Wilkes-Barre dropped 1.5 percentage points (7.1 percent to 5.6 percent), Sharon dropped 2.0 percentage points (6.5 percent to 4.5 percent) and Johnstown fell 1.2 percentage points (7.9 percent to 6.7 percent).

TABLE 4
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

ESTABLISHMENT DATA	MAY 1988 AP/	APR 1988 P/	MAR 1988	APR 1987	NET CHANGE TO APRIL 1988 FROM: MAR 1988	APR 1987
NONAG WAGE AND SALARY	5,034.3	5006.0	4950.2	4892.8	55.8	113.2
---MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	1,049.3	1048.1	1044.8	1037.5	3.3	10.6
DURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	600.9	600.3	595.5	588.8	4.8	11.5
LUMBERAND WOOD PRODUCT		30.9	29.7	28.7	1.2	2.2
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES		21.9	21.7	21.3	0.2	0.6
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS		47.6	46.7	46.8	0.9	0.8
PRIMARY METAL INDUSTRIES		91.2	90.6	87.3	0.6	3.9
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS		92.9	92.1	90.2	0.8	2.7
MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL		107.5	107.0	102.7	0.5	4.8
ELECTRIC & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT		92.0	91.7	94.7	0.3	-2.7
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT		61.0	61.0	61.9	0.0	-0.9
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PRODUCTS		34.4	34.2	34.6	0.2	-0.2
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES		20.9	20.8	20.6	0.1	0.3
NONDURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	448.4	447.8	449.3	448.7	-1.5	-0.9
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS		89.0	90.0	88.4	-1.0	0.6
TOBACCO MANUFACTURES		1.2	1.3	1.2	-0.1	0.0
TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS		31.0	31.1	31.1	-0.1	-0.1
APPAREL AND OTHER TEXTILE PRODS.		81.8	82.9	87.3	-1.1	-5.5
PAPER AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		40.6	40.6	40.9	0.0	-0.3
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING		81.3	81.2	80.7	0.1	0.6
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		60.7	60.6	58.3	0.1	2.4
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS		10.0	9.6	10.6	0.4	-0.6
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS		41.9	41.7	40.0	0.2	1.9
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS		10.3	10.3	10.2	0.0	0.1
---NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	3,983.4	3955.6	3903.2	3853.9	52.4	101.7
MINING	29.7	29.6	29.5	30.7	0.1	-1.1
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	233.3	224.5	208.2	209.7	16.3	14.8
TRANSPORTATION	142.0	140.6	140.6	142.4	0.0	-1.8
PUBLIC UTILITIES	104.3	104.1	104.9	103.4	-0.8	0.7
COMMUNICATIONS		49.1	49.6	49.3	-0.5	-0.2
ELECTRIC, GAS AND SANITARY		55.0	55.3	54.1	-0.3	0.9
WHOLESALE TRADE	269.5	268.1	265.9	261.4	2.2	6.7
RETAIL TRADE	870.2	861.5	850.0	847.5	11.5	14.0
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES		122.2	121.5	121.7	0.7	0.5
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	296.5	294.5	292.5	290.2	2.0	4.3
BANKING		87.2	87.4	89.1	-0.2	-1.9
INSURANCE CARRIERS		87.7	87.3	83.9	0.4	3.8
SERVICES AND MISCELLANEOUS	1,337.5	1328.9	1307.6	1271.3	21.3	57.6
BUSINESS SERVICES		232.3	227.1	214.6	5.2	17.7
HEALTH SERVICES		428.3	426.5	412.7	1.8	15.6
--HOSPITALS		235.2	235.1	227.7	0.1	7.5
LEGAL SERVICES		37.6	37.4	35.2	0.2	2.4
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES		157.6	158.5	155.4	-0.9	2.2
SOCIAL SERVICES		85.2	84.9	82.7	0.3	2.5
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES		64.1	63.1	58.9	1.0	5.2
GOVERNMENT	700.4	703.8	704.0	697.3	-0.2	6.5
FEDERAL		143.0	143.5	141.4	-0.5	1.6
STATE		153.4	153.2	151.9	0.2	1.5
LOCAL		407.4	407.3	404.0	0.1	3.4
---PERSONS IN LABOR-MGMT. DISPUTES	1.6	2.3	2.2	1.4	0.1	0.9

AP/= Advanced preliminary, based on early survey returns.
P/= Preliminary data.

PENNSYLVANIA'S NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT MOVES TO NEW LEVELS IN MAY

Employment as measured by the survey of businesses in Pennsylvania was up in May. The advanced preliminary survey revealed that employment grew by 28,300 over the month to a record level of 5,034,300. The previous record of 5,018,700 was set in November 1985. Employment in the Commonwealth expanded May to May by 113,300. The April to May growth of 28,300 was slightly above that which is expected.

DURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES REACT TO THE ECONOMY - ADDING JOBS

Manufacturing industries in Pennsylvania continued to add jobs in May. Reflecting a pattern similar to that of the United States, both durables and nondurables added 600 jobs over the month.

Within the nonmanufacturing industries new highs for employment were set in: wholesale trade (269,500) and services/miscellaneous (1,337,500). Not reaching a new high but advancing in May was finance insurance and real estate (FIRE). Employment within this industry had been falling off following the October 1987 crash. The level of employment for May was 296,500 --- the third highest on record.

NONMANUFACTURING STRONG IN APRIL

Employment within Pennsylvania's establishments between March and April advanced 55,800 to 5,006,000. The growth was based primarily on the strength of nonmanufacturing industries. In April nonmanufacturing employment totaled 3,955,600 or 79 percent of all employment. Over the month nonmanufacturing added 52,400 jobs. Manufacturing industries added 3,300 to the roles, moving to an employment total of 1,048,100 in April.

SERVICES INDUSTRY GROWING IN THE COMMONWEALTH

The strength of nonmanufacturing appears within services and miscellaneous, which includes establishments such as: lodging places, health services, legal services, personal services, and business services. April employment within this industry line was 1,328,900. Employment increased by 21,300 over the month, advancing beyond seasonal patterns,and by 57,600 over the year. Significant job gains were made in contract construction which advanced 16,300 over the month, and retail trade which added 11,500 to last month's employment rolls.

Durable goods industries added 4,800 jobs over the month, exceeding normal March to April seasonal patterns. The gain in employment for durable goods was more evident in the annual change which exhibits an addition of 11,500 jobs April to April. Nondurable goods lost jobs in April, down 1,500 over the month and 900 over the year. Apparel and textile industries lost 5,500 employes over the year.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

TABLE 5
PENNSYLVANIA HOURS AND EARNINGS
OF MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING PRODUCTION WORKERS
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

INDUSTRY TITLE	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	APR. 1988 P/	MAR. 1988	APR. 1987	APR. 1988 P/	MAR. 1988	APR. 1987	APR. 1988 P/	MAR. 1988	APR. 1987
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	417.18	413.71	398.78	40.9	40.8	40.2	10.20	10.14	9.92
DURABLE GOODS	457.80	453.53	437.54	42.0	41.8	41.2	10.90	10.85	10.62
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS	348.25	341.42	356.97	40.4	39.7	42.7	8.62	8.60	8.36
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	346.41	352.72	332.67	39.5	39.9	39.0	8.77	8.84	8.53
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODS.	459.17	444.57	437.38	43.4	42.3	42.3	10.56	10.51	10.34
PRIMARY METALS	538.90	541.44	523.33	42.4	42.7	41.9	12.71	12.68	12.49
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	447.53	439.74	429.32	42.3	42.0	41.4	10.58	10.47	10.37
NONELECTRICAL MACHINERY	479.45	478.59	442.08	43.0	43.0	41.2	11.15	11.13	10.73
ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONIC MACH.	414.86	415.30	398.40	41.2	41.2	40.0	10.07	10.08	9.96
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	533.36	526.15	484.40	42.8	42.5	40.4	12.52	12.38	11.99
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PROD.	428.68	420.43	420.96	41.7	41.3	41.8	10.28	10.18	10.12
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES	374.81	365.93	414.73	38.8	38.8	42.8	9.71	9.48	9.89
NONDURABLE GOODS	363.27	362.21	349.32	39.4	39.5	38.9	9.22	9.17	8.98
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS	395.41	391.84	382.71	39.7	39.7	39.7	9.96	9.87	9.64
TOBACCO PRODUCTS	246.64	238.73	238.80	40.5	39.2	39.9	6.09	6.09	5.98
TEXTILE PRODUCTS	280.41	279.30	272.53	39.0	38.9	39.1	7.19	7.18	6.97
APPAREL AND RELATED PRODUCTS	218.33	222.48	201.11	35.5	36.0	33.8	6.15	6.18	5.95
PAPER PRODUCTS	463.76	460.74	456.81	43.1	43.1	43.3	10.76	10.69	10.55
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING	437.30	436.00	424.91	39.9	40.0	39.6	10.96	10.90	10.73
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	507.36	509.46	490.99	42.0	42.0	42.1	12.08	12.13	11.66
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS	603.42	589.96	581.08	43.6	42.2	42.6	13.84	13.98	13.64
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS	378.84	375.23	374.05	41.7	41.6	41.7	9.08	9.02	8.97
LEATHER PRODUCTS	224.86	224.32	219.49	38.8	37.2	38.1	6.11	6.03	6.08
NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES									
ANTHRACITE COAL MINING	437.34	435.81	385.44	37.0	36.5	33.4	11.82	11.94	11.54
BIT. COAL & LIGNITE MINING	652.92	613.06	613.94	41.8	39.4	40.8	15.62	15.56	15.17
COMMUNICATIONS	526.82	526.53	527.75	39.7	39.5	39.8	13.27	13.33	13.26
ELECTRIC, GAS, & SANITARY	645.20	639.82	639.36	42.7	42.4	43.2	15.11	15.09	14.80
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES	178.84	137.14	180.52	27.9	27.7	29.4	6.41	6.32	6.14

P/ = Preliminary data.

WEEKLY PAYCHECKS FOR PRODUCTION WORKERS UP IN APRIL

Pennsylvania's 717,000 plus manufacturing production workers averaged $417.18 per week in their pay checks in April. The average earning for April ($417.18) reveals an addition of $3.47 since March and $18.47 increase in weekly earnings since April 1987. Influencing the increase in weekly earnings is the average hours worked which increased over the month from 40.8 to 40.9 hours.

In September 1987 Commonwealth production workers began averaging more than $10.00 per hour for the first time. Hourly earnings which have remained above the $10.00 level rose again in April. The hourly earnings of $10.20 per hour was six cents more than in March and 28 cents per hour more than April 1987.

The increase to 40.9 average weekly hours in manufacturing was paced by an advance to 42.0 hours among production workers within durable goods, up from 41.8 in March.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

TABLE 6
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION REGULAR PROGRAM
(Not seasonally adjusted)

	APR 1988	MAR. 1988	APR. 1987	NET CHANGE FROM MAR. 88	NET CHANGE FROM APR. 87
CLAIMS ACTIVITY					
Initial Claims	73,720	77,033	92,138	-3,313	-18,418
Weeks Claimed					
--Total	513,235	700,001	611,346	-186,766	-98,111
--Average Weekly	122,199	152,174	138,942	-29,975	-16,743
Insured					
Unemployed Rate	2.6%	3.3%	3.1%	-0.7	-0.5
PAYMENT ACTIVITY					
First Payments	25,242	31,220	29,607	-5,978	-4,365
Final Payments	7,258	6,960	10,133	298	-2,875
Weeks Paid	483,877	662,207	610,693	-178,330	-126,816
Net Benefit Amt	$73,646,358	$103,098,982	$90,308,644	-$29,452,628	-$16,662,290
Avg Check Amt	$152.20	$155.69	$147.88	-$3.49	$4.32

TRUST FUND EXPANDS IN APRIL

Pennsylvania's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund expanded to $373 million by the end of April as the result of income exceeding disbursements by $18.3 million during the month. The balance moved closer to the previous high of $379 million in February 1975.

The number of weeks claimed fell sharply from March to April (186,766 or 27 percent)which is in line with the normal seasonal pattern. However, the disparity between the 1988 and 1987 monthly claim totals continues to grow with the 1988 total trailing by 98,111 in April. The insured unemployment rate, mirroring claims activity, fell from March's 3.3 percent to April's 2.6 percent, the lowest rate for April since 1969.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUST FUND - APRIL 1988 Activity

Income - $91,942,834 **Disbursements - $73,642,308**

Cash Reserves $596,703,942
Federal Loans $223,863,645

Net Reserves $372,840,297

TECHNICAL NOTES

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Civilian Labor Force - Estimated number of persons 16 years of age and over, employed or unemployed during week including 12th of month, distributed by place of residence.

Total Employed - Includes nonagricultural wage and salary workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agricultural workers, and persons involved in labor disputes. Employment distributed by place of residence.

Total Unemployed - Estimated number of persons, by place of residence, who did not work during reference week and were looking for work, whether or not eligible for unemployment compensation. Includes those who did not work and were waiting to be called back to an old job or to report to a new job.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Collection - Nonagricultural wage and salary employment as well as hours and earnings estimates based on monthly reports from sample of employers. Under cooperative arrangement with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Research and Statistics Division of the Pennsylvania Office of Employment Security, mails, edits, and processes reports, which are subsequently incorporated in national data.

Industrial Classification - Employer establishments classified by industry on basis of their principal product or service. The Standard Industrial Classification Manual (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., 1972, amended 1977) used for classification.

Nonagricultural Employment - A count of jobs by place of work. Includes persons on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation. Excluded are persons laid off, on strike, or on unpaid vacation during entire reporting period. Proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers also excluded. Government employment covers only civilian employes. Full-time teachers considered employed during the summer vacation period, whether or not paid in those months.

Benchmark Data - Employment estimates compared annually with complete count of employment, by industry. Where revisions necessary, monthly estimates adjusted to new benchmark. Following revisions to new benchmark, industry data projected forward to current month by use of sample trends. Basic source of benchmark information is tabulations of employment data, by industry and area, compiled from contribution reports of employers covered under Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law.

Hours and Earnings

Method of Computing Averages - Average hours computed by dividing total production worker hours worked during one week (the seven-day period which includes 12th of month) by number of production workers for week. Average hourly earnings computed by dividing total production worker payroll for one week by total production worker hours for week. Average weekly earnings derived by multiplying average hourly earnings by average weekly hours.

Definitions - Definitions of production or similar workers, payroll, and hours - from which average hours and earnings data are derived - follow:

Production Workers - Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers (including group leaders and trainees) engaged in fabricating, processing, assembling, inspection, receiving, storage, handling, packing, warehousing, shipping, maintenance, repair, janitorial and guard services, product development, auxiliary production for plant's own use (such as power plant), and record keeping and other services closely associated with production operations.

Payroll - Represents payroll for full- and part-time production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers who received pay for any part of pay periods which include 12th of month. Payroll is reported before deductions for Social Security, group insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues; also includes pay for overtime, holidays, vacations, and sick leave paid directly by the firm.

Hours - Represents hours worked or paid, during pay periods which include 12th of month, for production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers. Hours include time paid for holidays and vacations, and for sick leave when pay received directly from firm.

Unemployment Compensation

Initial Claims - Notices of unemployment filed to request a determination of entitlement to compensation in a new benefit year (period of eligibility) following a period of employment or to begin a second or subsequent period of eligibility within the benefit year following interim employment within the benefit year.

Weeks Claimed - Requests for benefits filed by claimants which certify to the fact the claimants experienced total, partial, or part-total unemployment for given weeks.

Average Weekly Claims - Total number of weeks claimed in a month divided by the number of weeks in the month.

Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) - Ratio of the average weekly number of persons claiming unemployment compensation benefits within the given month to average annual covered employment. Calculated by dividing the month's average weekly continued weeks claimed by the latest 12 month average covered employment for which data is available.

First Payment - First benefit check a claimant receives for a week of unemployment in a benefit year.

Weeks Paid - Weeks claimed which were paid to eligible claimants upon certification that unemployment compensation qualifying unemployment was experienced during given weeks.

Net Benefit Amount - Amount of regular unemployment compensation benefits paid to claimants, after adjusting for returned and redeposited benefit checks.

Income - Amount of funds deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including employer and employe contributions, transfers from other sources such as the Special Administration Fund, redeposited unemployment compensation checks, federal benefit program reimbursements, loans, and interest earnings.

Disbursements - Amount of funds disbursed from the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including the payment of state unemployment compensation benefits, federal program benefits, refunds, and voluntary federal loan repayments.

Balance - Amount of funds available in the state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund to pay unemployment compensation benefits.

Federal Loans - Balance of unemployment compensation loans owed by Pennsylvania to the federal government.

Net Reserves - Amount of funds available in the state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund available to pay unemployment compensation benefits minus the balance of federal loans.